

Rev. H. S. Gorham and some 19th Century Records

By J. COOTER*

Although the Rev. Henry Stephen Gorham was one of this country's leading entomologists, it is probably true to say that his name is better known to Coleopterists working abroad than those studying the British fauna. Gorham died on March 22nd, 1920 aged 81, at Great Malvern, after building up what must have been one of the finest collections of Coleoptera in private hands.¹ He was an authority on many Families, particularly the Erotylidae, Endomychidae, Languridae, and Cleridae, which doubtless plays some part in his being little known to many modern British Coleopterists. He was however an expert on our native fauna, and we owe the addition of many species to him.

His obituary in the *Entomologist's Monthly Magazine* (Tomlin, 1920) is most informative, and I make no apologies for quoting one paragraph in full. "The extensive collections of beetles made by him, including that of the well-known artist Armitage (which was bequeathed to Gorham by its owner, who died on May 20th 1896), have mostly passed into the hands of Continental or American workers. The Endomychids, which included the Guerin and Deyrolle collections and contained many types, were acquired by the British Museum in 1891; the Lycidae were purchased by Bourgeois and the Lampyridae by Olivier, these collections, on the death of their respective owners, passing into the Paris Museum; the Telephoridae, Melyridae etc., were sold to M. Pic, the Coccinellidae to M. Sicard, and the Erotylidae, we believe, to the Deutschen Entomologischen Museum in Berlin."

A more detailed entry appears in Horn and Kahle (1935), "Gorham, Henry Stephen (1839-1920), Brit. Coleopt. via J. A. D. Perrins als Leihgabe 1932 an Stadt. Mus., Birmingham — Clerid., Bostrychid. u. Cisid. 1911 an Mus. Nation. Hist. Nat., Paris. — Lycid., Telephorid. Melyrid., Malachiid., Dasytid., Anobiid., Ptinid. u. Heterom. 1899 an M. Pic (Digoin). — Lampyrid. u. Drilid. via E. Olivier an Mus. Nation. Hist. Nat., Paris. — Endomychid. via G. Lewis^[2] 1891 an Brit. Mus. N.H., London. — Typen von Erotylid. u. Languriid. on Brit. Mus. N.H., London. — Coccinellid. an A. Sicard. — Rest 1920 via J. C. Stevens (London) verauktioniert."

It is plain to see that at the time of his death, the material still held by Gorham was only a fraction of the actual collec-

1. Apart from Coleoptera, Gorham had collections of several other Orders of insects, fossils, minerals, birds' eggs and land shells. He was also a well known numismatist and stamp collector.
2. The British Museum (Natural History) acquired Gorham's Endomychids, along with additions by G. Lewis, by purchase from Janson. The collection was of 790 examples of 360 species including 149 types. However, these figures include all Bates' types of *Amphix* as well as other material. (R. D. Pope, *pers. comm.*).

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tion he built up. The remainder, auctioned at J. C. Stevens' Covent Garden sale-rooms on October 12th, 1920 included a few non-entomological lots, including coins — Gorham was a well known numismatist — as well as books and papers.

Mr. D. B. Janson kindly supplied a photocopy of the annotated sale catalogue in his possession. The Gorham material was sold in 111 lots (catalogue numbers 451-561). Some of the more interesting lots include:

- No. 454 EROTYLIDAE, *including types and cotypes of species described by him*, five boxes. (Annotation — 29 types. £18.0.0d.)
- No. 455 DITTO: Ischyrus, Mycotretus, Triplax, Paratritoma, Tritoma, Triplax, Triplacidea, Amblyscelis, Lybus, Pseudobybass, Cyrtomorphus, etc., *including types and cotypes*, in three superior large cartons. (Annotation — 15 types — £9.0.0d; 455a: 9 types — £2.0.0d; 455b: 3 types — £5.0.0d.)
- No. 456 LANGURIIDES and *Helota*, *including types and cotypes*, in three book-boxes. (Annotation — 24 types — £16.0.0d.)
- No. 457 *Pheropsochus*, about 55 species, named and arranged in three polished boxes. (Annotation — boxes — £1.0.0d.)
- No. 458 *Heteromera*: *Morica* — *Hopatrum*, *Phrenapates* — *Euepus*, *Spheniscus*, about 350 species in fifteen polished boxes. (Annotation — boxes 30/-. £4.0.0d.)
- No. 461 ENDOMYCHIDAE, *about 350 species, 1,025 specimens, ...including many types and cotypes described by him*, in three book-boxes. (Annotation — 19 types, £22.0.0d.)
- No. 476 *Cassidinae*, named and arranged collection, *in four book-boxes*. (Annotation — £0.18.0d.)
- No. 491 Coleoptera, Emu Bay, Tasmania and Chili; Scolytidae and others, six boxes. (Annotation — £0.10.0d.)
- No. 507 *Dytiscidae*, *Gyrinidae* and *Hydrophilidae*, about 500 species named and arranged in two large book-boxes. (Annotation — £1.0.0d.)
- No. 510 *Coccinellidae*, etc., about 240 species in large book-boxes. (Annotation — £1.0.0d.)
- No. 511 *Lycidae*, *Lampyridae*, about 240 species in large book-boxes. (Annotation — £0.8.0d.)
- No. 519 *Cassididae*, about 450 species, named and arranged in three large book-boxes. (Annotation — £2.2.0d.)
- No. 454 Various Coleoptera, 34 pocket boxes. (Annotation — £0.12.0d.)
- No. 549 Ten silver coins, (Edward Confessor) two Maltese grains 1693 and 1757, and sixteen bronze coins. (Annotation — £1.10.0d.)

By today's standards these prices seem ridiculously low, but were probably average for their time. It may be noted that the lot preceding the Gorham material, lot 448 the Bryant Collection of British Coleoptera "... named and arranged in fifteen large double store-boxes, about 1,460 species, 7,900 specimens, all well carded and with full data; ..." was purchased by Ellis for £21.0.0d. Further, from the numbers and diversity of the material sold at the sale, bearing in mind that the bulk of the most important had been disposed of before his death, the collection Gorham built up must have been truly vast.

Gorham's fine collection of British Coleoptera was acquired by Capt. J. A. Dysson Perrins of Malvern (see notes on the wrappers of the *Entomologist's Monthly Magazine*, volume 56, and Horn & Kahle 1935, quoted above), who in turn donated it to the City of Birmingham Museum and Art Gallery. For many years the collection, housed in two twenty-drawer cabinets, has been on loan to the Geology Department

of the University of Birmingham, Edgbaston. It still contains type material, series of the species Gorham added to our List, and a host of extremely rare species. Unfortunately, with the passage of time it is now in urgent need of curation. Although the majority of specimens are carded, most lack data labels, but carry a hand written code, which up to the time when I finished working at the University could not be interpreted. As good luck would have it, Mr. M. D. Bryan, a Ph.D. student while I was at Birmingham, moved from the University to take up the post of Assistant Keeper, Natural History at the City Museum, within months of my moving to Glasgow. Within weeks Mr. Bryan had found an exchange list and collecting diary that belonged to Gorham, and were donated with the collection in 1932.

Mr. Bryan kindly sent these books to me, and has allowed me to make full use of the diary in this paper. Much valuable information is hidden in the diary, and with its help the code written on the specimen cards can be deciphered. Thus, armed with this invaluable book, it is now possible to put data to the majority of the Gorham material, and so increase still further the value of this most important historic collection.

The diary covered the period 1868 to 1897, the fly-page is inscribed "Henry S. Gorham, Entomological Diary Recommended Nov. 1868, Needlewood Parsonage, Burton-on-Trent." It should be noted that there are several entries before November 1868. The first page has two entries from 1867, followed by one for 1859 which reads "34 is West Wickham Wood near Addington". This is followed by one for 1860 which reads "72 is Westerham 75". Two pages further on are three entries for 1868 (numbers 1-3, not dated), overleaf are three more (numbers 11-13), then on the next page the diary proper begins. It would seem another book was kept at some time, the entries for 1859 and 1860 in the known diary seem to be notes of correction for previously recorded data. Certainly Gorham was an entomologist before this date, his name appears in the Second Supplemental List of British Entomologists as published in the *Entomologist's Annual* for 1858, viz. "Gorham, H. S. 10 Alfred Street, Montpelier Square, Brompton. *British Lepidoptera*." The note of specific interest being changed in the *Annual* for 1860 (the last one to have the list) to "*British Coleoptera*". Whether a post-1897 diary was kept is a matter for conjecture. Certainly Gorham was collecting after this date (see for example Fowler & Donisthorpe, 1913: 295 — "*Platydema dytiscoides* Rossi.³ Rediscovered in the New Forest in 1901 by Messrs. Donisthorpe and Gorham, who took seven specimens under bark of felled oak." His last published notes appeared in the *Entomologist's Monthly Magazine*, volume 43 (Gorham, 1907)).

A brief history of Gorham's life is given by Tomlin (1920), again I quote ". . . ordained in 1865 to a curacy at Ilam. After successive curacies at Needlewood, Bearstead,

3. *Platydema violaceum* (Fabricius) = *dytiscoides* sensu Fowler, nec Rossi.

Enfield and Rusper, he became vicar of Shipley, Sussex, in 1873, and held the living for eleven years. On retiring therefrom in 1884 he went to live at Shirley Warren, near Southampton, and in 1905 moved to Great Malvern, . . . At Shirley he was for some years a near neighbour of Dr. Sharp, . . ." [Sharp eventually moving from Shirley Warren to Brockenhurst.]

Among Gorham's publications ". . . His most important contributions to exotic entomology are 'Endomycici Recitati' (1873), and the 'Malacodermata' (1880-86), and 'Erotylidae, Endomychidae, and Coccinellidae' (1887-89), for the *Biologia Centrali-Americana*."

NOTES CONCERNING THE FORMAT OF THE DIARY.

The "code" on the mounting cards is quite simple, consisting of two sets of figures separated by an oblique stroke, for example 19/69. This refers to entry number 19 for the year 1869, that is, May 13th, 1869 — collecting in Bagot Park.

Not all entries have their own dates, but from November 1868 each can at least be traced to the month. Some entries, especially those separated at the most by a few days, and referring to the same collecting locality, may share the same entry number. As well as collecting excursions, Gorham includes, in sequence, specimens received from friends and correspondents. Not all the diary entries show names underlined, generally only those rare species, or ones captured for the first time have been so treated. Thus, the names underlined by Gorham only will appear in italics in the text.

Needless to say, the names of many species have been changed with the passage of time, although only a very few of these "old names" cannot be interpreted with accuracy. In most cases I have left these unaltered as generally it is not too difficult to work out what beetle Gorham was referring to. In a few instances it is difficult, and I felt for me to give my opinion of the species "*sensu* Gorham diary" would only add to confusion.

In all instances square brackets are my own additions, and usually used to clarify points.

(To be continued)

REQUEST FOR INFORMATION ON IMMIGRANT LEPIDOPTERA IN 1978

R. F. Betherton and I intend producing a paper in *The Record* early in the New Year on immigrant lepidoptera noted in the British Isles in 1978, but especially during October and November. Please send for inclusion, any records of interest to: R. F. Bretherton, Folly Hill, Birtley Green, Bramley, Guildford, Surrey, GU5 0LE; or, to me. — J. M. Chalmers-Hunt, 1 Hardcourts Close, West Wickham, Kent, BR4 9LG.